

DEMING GRAPHIC.

VOL. I Entered March 18, 1903, at Deming, N. M., as second class matter, under act of congress, of March 3, 1879.

DEMING, LUNA COUNTY, N. M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1903.

No. 12

LUNA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

A Serial Story of its History, People, Stock, Mining and Commercial Industries, Railway Facilities and Educational Advantages.

Part I.

Chapter 4.

The Stock Interests by
Dr. S. D. Swope.

The stock interest of this section, has been and probably will always be, the chief industry and most stable and remunerative occupation of its inhabitants. While the surrounding mountains possess mineral wealth of vast importance which development, will mean great riches to the hardy sons of toil, who may have the hardihood, and the nerve to delve beneath the surface and uncover the hidden treasure, to the vast plains we must always look for their steady flow of wealth through her stock interest. The waving fields of grain that cover the great Mississippi valley, and its tributaries are beautiful in their verdant growth and golden harvest. They furnish vast quantities of feed to make fat the beef for the greatest nation on earth. The husbandmen of these valleys must look to the vast plains of the great southwest for their supply of young cattle with which to fill their feeding barns; for here the cattle can be grown easier, and cheaper, than any where else upon the face of the earth. This the sunny Southland, whose protecting hills encircle the vast plains of chaparral, and meadows must always be the best breeding ground of the Americas.

When first the hardy pioneer, who saw the golden mirage of '49, ever and beyond the tall pine journey, crossed the turbid, swift running waters of the Rio Grande del Norte, and emerged upon these beautiful plains, a vision met his gaze never to be forgotten. No herds of cattle had ever cropped the waving expanse of perennial grasses. Here and there a band of antelope grazed in large eyed wonder at their first sight of the prairie schooner, which was but the advance guard of the after swarm of humanity that was to exterminate their great numbers.

They were practically the only herbivorous animals of the plains for the buffalo had never crossed the great river of the North, and the mastodon, and mammoth whose remains we frequently unearth has been extinct for ages. As our traveler climbed some eminence a small dust cloud here and there marked the presence of a band of Indians intent upon the chase, and who were destined to prove the greatest obstacle to his future progress. Many a good farmer who had sold his flocks and cattle in the east to strive for greater wealth, in the gold bearing sand and reefs of the Pacific slope, gazed with admiration upon our beautiful plateau, and wished for his herds to crop the waving fields of grass that grew to his saddle skirts. Some, tiring of the toil and privations of a transcontinental trip by way of ox team motive power, selected a watered spot and turned his few cows loose to become our first stock men. When the beauties of the golden sunset land, had dimmed by the months of privation, toil, and disappointment, others came and saw, faltered on their journey, and settled to tend their herds, and defend their all from savage marauders. Men of means who had seen or heard of the great profits to be derived from business, where the gross earnings would amount to eighty per cent of the capital invested, began to look for suitable locations to establish holdings. Our gold seekers, though probably the first English speaking people, were not the first owners of cattle on the plains. Coronado from the west, and Alvarado from the east, with many other Spanish explorers, had sung the praises of the land where they found little gold to reward their labors, and when the Spanish colonies came, they brought herds of Spanish cattle, inferior in quality but superior in foraging propensities. In sequestered nook, by bubbling spring, the Spanish American

Don, complacently rolled his cigarette, as he viewed with pleasure his growing herds come in at noon day to quench their thirst, and the great American looked on his prosperity with envy, and 'twas then he really came, saw and conquered; and it was here that man's cupidity came near resulting in his undoing. With scanty knowledge of the requirements, and necessities, and no knowledge of the the existing conditions, vast herds of cattle, that had been reared in small pastures were driven into the region and located. They ate all the grass in the immediate vicinity of the water. Nature withheld her lavish hand for a season, and a drouth resulted. The plains became bare from great over crowding, and more carcasses than cattle were to be found. Here and there an abandoned well, and a ruined adobe wall marks the site of one of these ranches, monuments of "Once golden hopes laid low." It would hardly be fair to pass from the discovery of this region to an account of its present prosperity, without a mention of the "Rustlers" that hardy element of semi-civilization that suggested to our Eastern Journalist, "Alkali Ike, Broncho Bill." Three fingered Jack and Lariat Sam," with other members of the fraternity, who are credited with having inhabited "Frozen Dog," and other imaginary western settlements.



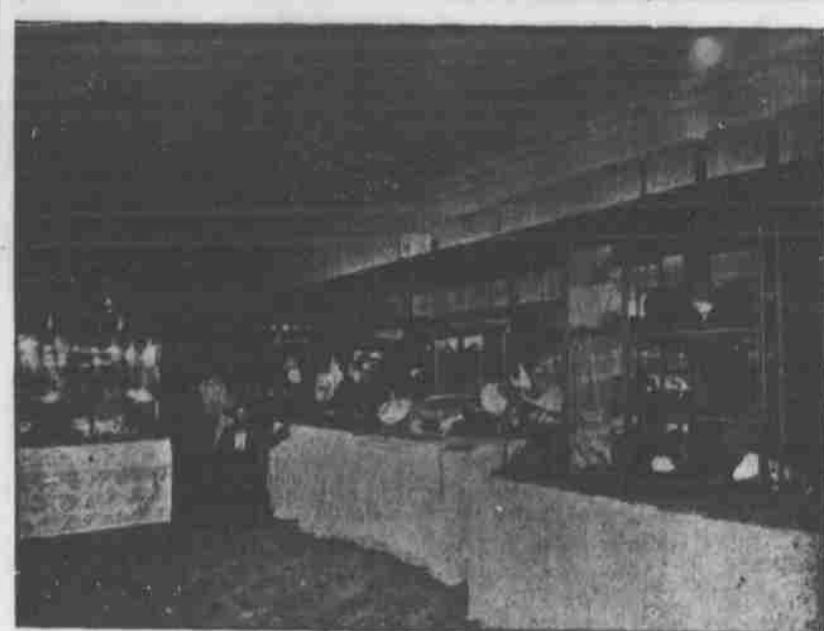
These hardy sons of Adam who were composed of renegades from justice, and adventurous spirits in whose veins the blood of our Viking forefathers still lingered, found in the vast solitudes, satisfactory retreats, and ample scope for their occupation. There being no legitimate enterprise by which they could gain a livelihood, and the broad valleys that run into the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, were suggestive avenues in which to ply their trade. So they stole cattle from the Mexicans, ran them across the border, and sold them to the American settlers in the northern end of the valley. They then stole the settlers horses, and ran them into Mexico to sell them to Mexican vaqueros. Spend their money and stole another herd of cattle. It was the knowledge of these high handed gentry who were said to ride with a long loop, i. e. stole everything in sight. That gave to Frances Frances, the inspiration to write some of most accurate descriptions of the people, and places that have ever been published. Luckily the days of the rustlers are ended, and the haunts that know them no more, are peaceful ranches where herds are pasturing, and comfortable homes are established.

"Curly Bill," was stabbed by an infuriated Mexican to whose "Dulce Corazon" he paid more court than was wise. Ike was central figure in a drama of life, where he shuffled off this mortal coil at the end of a rope, the other end of which was held by a vigilance committee.

"Broncho Bill" is now working for an outfit that don't believe in a wide range, and confine him to the four walls of a well regulated institution. While "Sam" "Jack" and others who grew tired of having dust kicked in their

faces by cattle, after a sensational episode with an express car, were overtaken by a sheriff's posse, who insisted on their biting more dust, a process which generally proves fatal under such circumstances. Their rendezvous in the pass of the little Hachitas has lost forever its old time reputation, and has been converted into a peaceable home presided over by a matron whose grace and hospitality could not be excelled by the most enthusiastic lady of an eastern city. And he who is said to have gathered around him as wild a set of men as ever inhabited a wild region, is now a leading member of a church and unquestionably intends to balance any misdeeds of which he might have been guilty, by a life of gooddeeds, and rectitude. Who shows the stamp of the "Lowly Nazarene" on his heart, by going out into the highways, and hedges and never losing a chance to call on the ungodly to turn from the error of their ways into the paths of peace and righteousness.

There are few other places in the great southwest better adapted to the breeding and raising of cattle than the southwestern corner of New Mexico. Luna county embraces an area of plain and mountain, affording a diversity of range qualities unexcelled. During the rainy season the white gamma and sacaton grass, which are perennial and a number of annual grasses spring up and grow like magic. The depressions in the earth's surface and man's ingenuity furnish the water, and the chaparral browsing and shade, while the cattle enjoy the plenty and grow fat. With the cool nights in October, at the end of the rainy season, the meadows dry up and afford cured provender for the winter. And when the Spring west winds begin to blow, that moist-



Interior of Mrs. Kinsworthy Millinery Store

ed at 3c in 80 or 81. Seed and Burdick established a ranch at the old stage crossing of the Mimbres, below the Howlett ranch in '81 and S. S. Birchfield started with 40 cows one mile south of Deming in '81 or '82.

Sam Carpenter, associated with Stanley, bought 500 head in Kansas and located at Cummins in 83 and 84. In 81 and 82 the largest cattle and ranch interest in the world, through their representative Col. Head, located a very large branch of their interest under the name of the Victoria Land & Cattle company in southern New Mexico. From year to year they have added to their holdings, until it can truly be said the cattle upon a thousand hills are theirs, they do not confine their holdings to one county, but vast stretches of prairies and ranges of mountains are included in their holdings. It would be impossible to estimate exactly the number of their cattle, as their losses and increases are hard to keep up with, but last year they shipped 25,000 head out of the country, and this was about an average year.

To the J. B. L. outfit whose superintendent is L. H. Brown, the bank cashier, belongs the distinction of being the oldest cattle ranch in the county. A well formed tradition establishes the fact that the Hollow Cottonwood springs were occupied by the Jesuit fathers as a cattle ranch as early as 1800 and when the present manager began to improve the place by digging out the springs, he found a great quantity of metates (flat stones for grinding corn) laid face down completely paving the spring and over this logs and trash and dirt filled the place entirely, proving the intention of plugging the flow of water and remains of houses and other evidence of occupancy have been discovered to confirm the traditional reports.

The present! And what about the present? Over the vast plains great herds of cattle, range at ease, cropping the succulent grasses and quenching their thirst at the numerous watering places. Their peaceful existence disturbed only by a semi-annual round-up. The two epochs of their lives branding time, when they are marked for future identification, and the first real journey when they are driven to market to be shipped to their future homes in the north, east, or west. The bad men have vanished with the onward march of civilization, and with them the poor cattle, and in their place are a jovial bighearted courageous set of men of whom our beloved President is a type, who are destined to fill many places of honor. The wild freelifers lead may make them more enthusiastic when they congregate in town than ordinary men are wont to be, but the greatest surprise of our eastern tourist is to see our cowboys doff their overalls and jump, don a full dress suit to lead a cotillion, or with his willowing sister of the plains keep perfect time to the rhythmic strains of the waltz or two-step.

The growth of the cattle interest in the last 25 years is something phenomenal. In 1880 there were not more than 1000 head of cattle in the whole Southwestern end of New Mexico, and their combined value was not over \$10,000. Today there are more than 125,000 head of range cattle within the same area, and their real value is more than \$2,500,000 beside the improvements. The shipment of cattle from this region began in 1890 since which time we have furnished the world with from 50 to a 100 thousand head annually. Our space is too limited to enumerate all of the men who breed and raise cattle here. A list of their names, a description of their brand, and an estimate of their

holdings would furnish interesting reading for many besides our worthy assessor.

From the plains bronzed veteran Col. Hudson, to our latest accession a young Chicago business man they are all prosperous, and happy. Uncle Steve Birchfield being an example of their thrift who started with forty cows in '82 and now pays more taxes in one year than the most thrifty farmer in the East would pay in five. Many a man who started with a frying pan outfit (Could carry all his ranch equipment on one horse) ten years ago, could sell out his holdings and live upon the interest of his money, the remainder of his natural life, when Dick Roberts, Steve Birchfield, T. M. Kerr, Dick Hudson, L. H. Brown and Sim Holstein get together we have an aggregation of men whose success and sterling qualities are an honor to any community.

There are many men who could be mentioned in this, besides a large following of men of smaller means whose stations have risen from the "Dogie" pen to positions of influence and comfort. Though our ranges are stocked to the limit, our stockmen are beginning to thoroughly understand the importance of not overstocking the ranges. They have learned lessons in the past from these errors, and do not intend to be caught again in the same pitfall as is evidenced by the annual sale of culls, old cows and surplus young heifers which they are able to dispose off, at good prices. They are showing the faith they have in the interests by using the proceeds of these sales in making substantial improvements. Comfortable ranch houses, better corrals and better water supplies make the sites of the homes of the future cattle barons of the Southwest.

Part II.

Mrs. M. E. Kinsworthy came to our town last year from Honey Grove Tex., where for seven years she conducted a successful millinery business and in September last opened up the business she now has at the corner of Spruce street and Gold avenue, just across from the postoffice. Owing in part to her long experience in the business in her former home and in part to natural ability she has met with almost phenomenal success in business during the short time she has been in business in Deming. Her large millinery establishment, a picture of which is shown on this page, is one of the most complete in the southwest; in it will be found all varieties of ladies' and children's head wear, as well as all classes of notions fancy articles etc., as usually found in such an establishment. She is also agent for the Delineator and Butterick patterns which are the acknowledged leaders of the world of fashion.

As her assistant in the work of the store she has Miss Eva Rains, an experienced trimmer from Abilene, Tex., whose neat and tasteful work has done much to increase the popularity of the store. Mrs. Kinsworthy has just closed a cheap sale of spring goods and now has on hand a fine stock of summer goods and is already planning for the fall stock which will be the largest and best ever brought to Deming. She extends a cordial invitation to ladies to call and inspect her goods whether they wish to buy or not.

J. A. Kinnear & Co.

One of the neatest and most attractive business houses in town is the drug store of J. A. Kinnear & Co., the McGorty block on Gold avenue. This business was formed five years ago, and has, in addition to a first class drug stock and prescription department, an excellent line of stationary, perfumes, toilet articles, toys, novelties etc., all of which are the best quality and is so neatly and tastefully arranged as to make it one of the finest displays of such goods to be found in the southwest. Mr. J. A. Kinnear, who founded the business and has always given it his personal attention is a thorough business man, practical druggist, a pleasant gentleman, who makes friends of all with whom he comes in contact which accounts for the success of the business.